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ABSTRACT

The concept of behavior settings--the environments shaping individual behavior--was originated by Roger Barker in 1950 in connection with his community surveys in a small Kansas town, code-named Midwest. This book seeks to provide rural social scientists with an understanding of Barker's eco-behavioral approach and proposed adaptations of it to social accounts for town-and-trade communities, functional economic areas, and larger urban-centered regions. Chapters 1-9 make use of Barker's previously unpublished microdata from his last survey of Midwest's 884 behavior settings in 1963-64. Chapter 1 presents preliminary definitions of behavior settings; the programs of behavior settings; genotypes--categories of behavior settings with identical programs; authority systems--settings controlled by other settings; classes of authority systems; and genotype groups within classes of authority systems. Chapters 2-9 provide interpretations of (1) Barker's data sheet for individual behavior settings; (2) occupancy times by town subgroups; (3) population numbers by selected business settings, classes of authority systems, and genotype groups; (4) numbers of performers; (5) maximum penetration by population subgroups into zones of behavior settings; (6) behavior setting ratings on action patterns and behavior mechanisms; (7) behavior setting ratings for pressure on and welfare of children and adolescents; and (8) measures of the extent of a town's environment. Chapter 10 examines possible applications in the development of data systems, accounts, and models for rural and nonmetropolitan counties. This book contains 47 references and 62 data tables. (SV)